County of San Diego Class No. 004192

Revised: January 20, 1984 Reviewed: Spring 2003

#### SENIOR PHYSICIAN

# **DEFINITION:**

Under general direction, to conduct a medical program in a specific field of Public Health or in a hospital organization; to render professional services personally and to carry out responsible tasks in other fields of medicine as assigned; and to perform related work as required.

# **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

Senior Physicians are generally responsible for planning and directing a medical activity within a clinical service or in the Department of Health and Human Services Agency, (HHSA), as well as personally performing all phases of the activity. This may also involve supervising and instructing staff physicians, residents and interns while they are assigned to that activity.

Senior Physician is distinguished from Physician by the level or responsibility assumed, and the need for considerable specialized training and/or experience in a medical specialty. Senior Physicians, however, are not required to be eligible in their specialty and in this respect they differ from higher level physician specialists, who must be Board certified, or at least eligible to take the Board examination in their specialty.

# **EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Organizes or assists staff activities connected with a specialized medical program in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA); schedules and supervises the work of professional assistants and personally renders services in a medical specialty; makes referrals and consults with private physicians in a specialized field of medicine; reviews and interprets data obtained from the Health Department or Hospital records in order to determine program needs; represents the department head in community activities as directed; supervises the maintenance of records and the preparation of reports as required; maintains liaisons with local, state and federal health agencies.

# **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

### Thorough Knowledge of:

- Anatomy, physiology and diseases of the human body.
- Methods of conducting physical examinations.
- Methods of diagnosing and treating diseases and physical ailments.
- Recent developments in general medicine.
- Medicine used in the treatment of medical illness.

## General Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of medical administration.
- Physical, psychiatric and rehabilitation therapies.

# **Skills and Abilities to:**

- General medical principles.
- Effective relations with patients, their families, professional and para-professional staff.
- Communicate effectively both, orally and in writing.

## **EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrates possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is:

An M.D. degree from a recognized, accredited medical school AND, at least three (3) years of recent post-internship training or experience in internal medicine or as a general practitioner.

#### SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

#### License:

Applicants must possess a valid license to practice medicine in the State of California before employment. A valid California Class C driver's license is required at the time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

# Note:

Radiologists are <u>required</u> to be Board certified in order to provide "professional" testimony in court cases.